

### **Abstract**

A technique for applying a feature of a side attribute to an original image while keeping a principal feature. An image accumulating unit stores images classified into categories per the age or sex. A merging unit selects a category in accordance with an input category. A matching unit matches the input image and each of images included in the selected category with each other, and selects the image having highest degree of similarity. The merging unit merges the input image and the selected image by carrying out the weighted average and so on, and generates and outputs a merged image.